

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00

PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 DODE-00

AECE-00 DRC-01 MC-02 /185 W
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P R 200937Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1971

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T TOKYO 6566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST

REF: STATE 104647

1. FOLLOWING LENGTHY DEBATE IN GOJ, CABINET SECRETARY
NIKAIDO ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 18 EXPRESSING REGRET OVER INDIA'S

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NUCLEAR TEST RECALLING THAT JAPAN'S ESTABLISHED POLICY OPPOSED

ANY NUCLEAR TEST BY ANY NATION. STATEMENT SAID, QTE THE LATEST EXPLOSION TEST BY INDIA RUNS COUNTER NOT ONLY TO JAPAN'S POLICY BUT TO THE WORLD'S DESIRE TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNQTE. IT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TEST WOULD NOT DISCOURAGE GENERAL TREND TOWARD RELAXATION OF TENSION IN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT. LDP AND FOUR OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES ISSUED STATEMENTS PROTESTING INDIA'S ACTION. LDP'S STATEMENT WAS OPENLY SKEPTICAL OF QTE PEACEFUL PURPOSE UNQTE CLAIMED BY INDIA AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT INDIA'S ACTION WOULD TRIGGER FURTHER PROLIFERATION. JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY SOURCES TOLD PRESS INDIA HAS BROKEN "TABU" MAKING IT EASIER FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW SUIT AND SPECULATED THAT MOVE WOULD INCREASE TENSIONS IN AREA. PAPERS BANNER HEADLINED EVENT AND EDITORIALS IN MAJOR PAPERS CASTIGATED INDIA'S MOVE.

2. FONOFF PROVIDED ASSESSMENT TO PRESS WHICH IS BEING BROADLY CARRIED AND SUPPORTED. GOJ ASSESSMENT NOTED THAT GOJ AND POLITICAL PARTIES ARE SHOCKED OVER INDIAN EXPLOSION. BIGGEST CONCERN IS THAT "NONALIGNED" INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST MAY DISRUPT WORLD'S NUCLEAR BALANCE AND TEMPT OTHERS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS PARTICULARLY IN MIDEAST. TEST MAY AROUSE TENSION IN ASIA, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA, BUT BECAUSE OF RECENT MILITARY BUILDUPS BY US AND USSR, TENSIONS MAY ALSO BE EXACERBATED BETWEEN THE FOUR POWERS AS WELL. USSR MAY EVEN HAVE ENCOURAGED INDIA'S MOVE TO CHALLENGE CHINA. PAKISTAN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FEEL THREATENED. GOJ ASSUMED THAT ONLY PERCEPTION OF THREAT PRIMARILY FROM CHINA WOULD LEAD INDIA TO EXPEND ITS LIMITED RESOURCES FOR NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN MIDST OF SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. GOJ BACKGROUNDER SAW ACTION AS PERHAPS ALSO DESIGNED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM INDIA'S ECONOMIC WOES. ALTHOUGH INDIA HAS LITTLE DELIVERY CAPABILITY AND LIMITED STOCKPILES OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL, JAPANESE OBSERVERS ARE UNIFORMLY SKEPTICAL THAT INDIA'S NUCLEAR PLANS ARE STRICTLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. FINALLY, GOJ ASSESSMENT SPECULATED THAT INDIA'S ACTION WILL STRENGTHEN FORCES IN JAPAN OPPOSED TO JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF NPT.

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3. DEP PM MIKI DURING LUNCHEON MAY 20 FOR GOV PETERSON (HERE FOR 3RD US-JAPAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT) SAID JAPANESE PEOPLE SHARE FIRM CONSENSUS NOT TO GO NUCLEAR MILITARILY. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT IMPACT MIGHT MINIMALLY REINFORCE HAND OF THOSE AGAINST NPT. MIKI EVEN VIEWS NUCLEAR POWER AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO TIDE OVER ENERGY REQUIREMENTS UNTIL SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPS. HE WAS CRITICAL OF INDIA'S ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR TEST

AT TIME INDIANS ARE STARVING.

4. IN ADDITION TO ISSUING STATEMENT, GOJ WILL PROBABLY DELIVER PROTEST NOTES IN TOKYO AND NEW DELHI. GOJ WILL CONTINUE TO GENERATE AND INSPIRE PRESS CENSURE OF INDIAN ACTION. MAYORS OF HIROSHIMA (IN TELEGRAM TO INDIRA GANDHI) AND NAGASAKI (IN LETTER TO INDIAN AMBASSADOR) EXPRESSED REGRET QTE WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION UNQTE OVER INDIA'S TEST.

5. AS MIKI AND GOJ ASSESSMENT FOR PRESS INDICATED, GOJ EXPECTS INDIA'S EXPLOSION TO STRENGTHEN HAND OF THOSE IN JAPAN OPPOSED TO NPT. HOWEVER, PRESS EDITORIALS HAVE USED OCCASION TO PRESS FOR RATIFICATION OF NPT. ALTHOUGH THINKING WILL BE FURTHER POLARIZED ON SUBJECT OF NPT RATIFICATION, TANAKA GOVERNMENT IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO EARLY RATIFICATION AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY USE POINT THAT JAPAN'S FAILURE TO PROCEED WITH RATIFICATION WOULD OPEN JAPAN TO CRITICISM ABROAD AND AROUSE EVEN GREATER SUSPICION THAT JAPAN WISHES TO RETAIN NUCLEAR OPTION AND STILL HAS MILITARISTIC LEANINGS. TO DISPROVE THESE FEARS GOJ WILL PROBABLY TRY TO PROCEED WITH RATIFICATION UNLESS THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT INDIA'S ACTION IS LEADING TO UNRAVELING OF DISARMAMENT EFFORTS, INCLUDING RE-CONSTRAINTS EMBODIED IN NPT AMONG OTHER NATIONS. DESPITE POSSIBLE MEANING FOR NPT RATIFICATION, GOJ WILL REMAIN COMMITTED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO NPT AND DISARMAMENT MEASURES AS BASIC POLICY.

6. SINCE GOJ IS NOT CONTEMPLATING NUCLEAR OPTION AND STRONGLY OPPOSES OTHER NATIONS DEVELOPING OR TESTING NUCLEAR DEVICES, GOJ WOULD FORTHRIGHTLY SUPPORT STRONG STATEMENTS AND FIRM STANCE BY USG, IN THE UN OR ELSEWHERE. BECAUSE OF UNIQUE HISTORY, JAPAN WOULD BE QUICK TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH
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EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THREAT OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IT SEES POSED BY INDIA.
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